

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 /086 W
-----100403 231114Z /23

R 230950Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3984
INFO USMISSION USNATO
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 03172

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP, GI, CSCE
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO: POSITION OF THE GOVERNING
PARTY (UCD)

REF: MADRID 3148 221831Z MAR 78

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1. SUMMARY: THE GOVERNING UCD MARCH 21 EXPRESSED
UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO. JAVIER
RUPEREZ, UCD INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY, SAID IN A
PRESS CONFERENCE THAT ENTRY MUST BE THE RESULT OF A
DECISION BY AN AMPLE MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT, WHICH
COULD COME NEXT FALL. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBLE
EFFECTS OF NATO MEMBERSHIP ON THE US-SPANISH BILATERAL

RELATIONSHIP, SPAIN'S APPLICATION FOR THE COMMON MARKET, THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION, AND THE 1980 CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE IN MADRID. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN OFFICIAL PRESS CONFERENCE, JUST ONE DAY AFTER THE RETURN FROM A US VISIT BY TWO PSOE (SOCIALIST) DEPUTIES WHO DISCUSSED DEFENSE MATTERS AND SPAIN'S POSSIBLE ENTRY INTO NATO WITH US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON (REFTEL), UCD SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS JAVIER RUPEREZ ANNOUNCED THAT THE PARTY FAVORED SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE DECISION, WHICH HE INDICATED WAS TAKEN BY THE PARTY'S DIRECTIVE BODIES, ITS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, AND THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF, AFFIRMS AND MAINTAINS THE WELL-ESTABLISHED OUTLINES OF SPANISH FOREIGN POLICY, AND AGREES WITH THE PARTY PRINCIPLES, SET FORTH DURING THE JUNE 1979 GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, TO BUILD A DEMOCRATIC WESTERN EUROPEAN STATE.

3. ADMITTING THAT NATO MEMBERSHIP IS "DESIRABLE BUT NOT INEVITABLE," RUPEREZ SAID THE DECISION TO JOIN SHOULD BE THE RESULT OF A FULL NATIONAL DEBATE LEADING TO AN AMPLE MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT, RATHER THAN OF A REFERENDUM. HE ENVISAGED THE DEBATE COMING PERHAPS IN THE AUTUMN, WHEN THE HEAVY POLITICAL CALENDAR WAS LESS FULL. SPANISH MOVES TOWARDS NATO WERE NOT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RESULT OF US PRESSURE, HE SAID, BUT RATHER OF SPANISH INITIATIVES.

4. THE UCD SUPPORTS SPANISH SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON AS THE LEGAL BASIS FOR THE ALLIANCE, TO BE FOLLOWED MORE SLOWLY BY DECISIONS ON SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE VARIOUS MILITARY, NUCLEAR, AND CULTURAL ORGANS OF NATO, RUPEREZ CLARIFIED.

5. RUPEREZ PROFESSED HIMSELF GLAD AT RECENT PSOE STATEMENTS WHICH, HE SAID, HAD NOTABLY SOFTENED THAT PARTY'S POSITION ON NATO. HE REFERRED TO PSOE STATEMENTS THAT THERE WAS A NEED FOR SOME FORM OF MULTILATERAL DEFENSE OF SPAIN. HE CALLED THE IDEA OF A NON-NUCLEAR EUROPEAN DEFENSE "UTOPIA."

6. ON THE EFFECTS OF SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO ON THE US-SPANISH RELATIONSHIP, RUPEREZ IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID, "THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE US WOULD DISAPPEAR AND BE INCLUDED IN A LARGER MULTILATERAL DEFENSIVE FRAMEWORK."

7. MEMBERSHIP IN NATO COULD FORM A NEW BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING ON THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION AND FACILITATE SPANISH SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ROCK, ACCORDING TO RUPEREZ; THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE A SPANISH GIBRALTAR WITH A SPANISH MILITARY BASE AVAILABLE TO NATO.

8. RUPEREZ FELT SPANISH ENTRY INTO THE COMMON MARKET WOULD CLEARLY BE HELPED BY ENTRY INTO NATO. "WHAT DOUBT IS THERE THAT THE TWO TOPICS ARE POLITICALLY AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY LINKED?"

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9. FINALLY, SAYING THE COMMITMENT TO HOLD THE 1980 CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE IN MADRID WAS IRREVERSIBLE,

RUPEREZ REJECTED ANY LINKAGE BY THE SOVIETS TO SPAIN'S
REMAINING OUTSIDE NATO AS "BLACKMAIL, NOT ONLY AGAINST
SPAIN BUT AGAINST THE SECURITY CONFERENCE ITSELF."

10. COMMENT: THIS IS THE CLEAREST STATEMENT THE UCD
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HAS MADE OF SUPPORT FOR SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.
COUPLED WITH RUPEREZ' STATEMENT THAT THE PSOE POSITION
APPEARED TO BE LESS RIGID THAN IT EARLIER SEEMED,
WHICH COULD BE AN ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE PSOE SOME
ROOM TO BACK OFF, THIS UCD/GOVERNMENT POSITION
ESTABLISHED THE LINES OF THE COMING CONFRONTATION ON THE
ISSUE. RUPEREZ' EXPECTATION THAT THE DEBATE WOULD COME
THIS FALL MAY REQUIRE LATER ADJUSTMENT, SINCE OTHER
UCD MEMBERS AND GOS OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT IT
WOULD NOT BE UNTIL AFTER A) THE CONSTITUTION IS
APPROVED AND B) THERE HAVE BEEN EITHER MUNICIPAL OR
GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHICH MIGHT WELL NOT TAKE PLACE
UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF 1979. IN ANY CASE, THE UCD'S
TAKING A PUBLIC POSITION MEANS THE QUESTION OF NATO
MEMBERSHIP WILL CERTAINLY BECOME A MORE FREQUENT
TOPIC IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, POLICIES, VOTING, REGIONAL DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID03172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780128-0098
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780333/aaaabbfq.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7c1d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 3148
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3227063
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPAIN AND NATO: POSITION OF THE GOVERNING PARTY (UCD)
TAGS: MPOL, SP, GI, NATO, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7c1d7be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014